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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

(MEDICAL DEPARTMENT)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

County Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1939

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* * *

4, Barnfield Crescent
EXETER.

September, 1940.

To the Chairman, Aldermen and
Members of the Devon County Council.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report upon the Public Health of the County of Devon.

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Ministry of Health Circular 2067 this report is confined to comments on the more important health matters which have arisen during the year and should be looked upon as an interim report. No vital statistics are included in the Report. When the statistics are received from the Registrar-General records will be prepared and after the War these will be more fully dealt with.

One of the chief events during the year was the opening of the new block of buildings at Hawkmoor Sanatorium by the Minister of Health on 10th March.

There was no outbreak of Infectious Disease during the year calling for special comment.

The Ministry of Health and Home Office have given instructions for various stores and equipment in connection with A.R.P. and the Emergency Hospital Scheme to be stored and distributed by the Medical Department. Arrangements have been made for this to be done in one block of the Small Pox Hospital at Upton Pyne.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

L. MEREDITH DAVIES,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER.

STAFF OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The only changes in the whole - time officers of the staff during 1939 were as follows:-

County Psychiatrist:	Dr. Alice Cox resigned 28.2.39 and Dr. E.W. Anderson appointed 16.3.39.
Assistant County Medical Officer:	Dr. A. Dick appointed 1.12.39.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

The following changes were effected during 1939:-

Combined Appointments. The Okehampton-Tavistock Area was completed by the appointment of Dr. E.D. Allen Price as Medical Officer of Health of the Tavistock and Broadwoodwidger Rural Districts.

Dr. W.J. Doyle who was appointed Medical Officer of Health by the Exmouth Urban District Council on the 1st April, now holds a combined appointment for the St. Thomas Rural District and Exmouth. Dr. A. Dick was appointed as Assistant County Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health for the combined district comprising the Borough of Dartmouth and Urban Districts of Brixham and Paignton.

Dr. D. Steele-Perkins was appointed whole - time Medical Officer of Health for the Axminster - Honiton Area which includes the Axminster Urban and Rural, Honiton Urban and Rural and Seaton Urban Districts. This is not a combined appointment.

* * * * *

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease during the year, the number of notifications for the more important diseases, with the numbers for 1938 are given below:-

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric	Pneumonia	Cerebro-spinal fever	Acute Poliomyelitis
1939	551	222	20	342	9	7
1938	669	119	21	274	3	9

An order of the Ministry of Health issued in October, 1939, made the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough compulsory throughout the County.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of primary notifications during the year was 582, compared with 533 in 1938. The number of cases admitted to County Council Institutions was 402, compared with 505 admitted in 1938. There were 197 patients in residence on the 1st January, 1939, and 168 in residence on the 31st December.

During the year 125 patients suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were treated at various institutions, not belonging to the County Council.

Grants of extra nourishment &c. were made as follows:-

(1) Extra Nourishment - 478 grants at 2/6 per week, each for three months to 238 patients.

Except in a few instances where the Tuberculosis Officer specially recommended cream or butter, milk and eggs only have been granted.

(2) Dentistry - 14 grants.

(3) Surgical appliances - 137 grants.

(4) Nursing - 5 grants.

(5) Fares - 145 grants.

During the year a new block of beds was opened at Hawkmoor. Whitecliff Hospital was closed in March. Arrangements were made for outpatient treatment in the Torquay area by establishing a Clinic at Castle Chambers, Torquay. This is open on Mondays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

X-RAYS

During the year the following patients from the Administrative County, excluding North Devon, were examined by the County Radiographer - 4,342.

Table I shows the number of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary patients and Table II classifies these patients according to sex and age:-

TABLE I

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon and Whitecliff	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Pulmonary T.B.	1135	1446	1475	-	4056
Non-Pulmonary	17	67	61	141	286
Total	1152	1513	1536	141	4342

TABLE II

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon and Whitecliff	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Males	519	607	710	8	1844
Females	571	732	811	21	2135
Children	62	174	15	112	363
Total	1152	1513	1536	141	4342

The following table shows the number of examinations of these patients for each area of the County:-

TABLE III

	Mid-Devon and Ivybank	South-Devon and Whitecliff	Hawkmoor	Ortho. Hos. and other Clinics	Total
Screenings	1074	872	1219	-	3165
Films	1009	958	532	220	2719
Total	2083	1830	1751	220	5884

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS FOR OTHER AUTHORITIES

During the year 194 patients were X-rayed for the Exeter City Council.

HAWKMOOR SANATORIUM

The most important event of the year was the opening of the new extensions to the Sanatorium and nurses' home by the Minister of Health, The Right Hon. Walter Elliott, M.P., on March 10th. The extra beds were immediately occupied. The new administrative and treatment facilities have been fully utilised except for a short interruption during September.

Total number of beds available	152
" " " patients admitted	292
" " " " discharged or who died	271
Number of Patient Days	45,136
Average number of beds occupied	123.6

Age Classification on admission	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years	11	12	23
" 25 "	34	41	75
" 35 "	36	49	85
" 45 "	40	31	71
" 55 "	16	12	28
Over 55 "	8	2	10
	145	147	292

Disease classification on admission

Pulmonary only	Males	Females	Children	Total
Observation	9	3	5	17
Class T.B. Minus	42	59	3	104
Class T.B. Plus				
Group 1	5	5	-	10
" 2	31	26	2	59
" 3	40	37	-	77
Non-Pulmonary only				
Bones and Joints	-	2	1	3
Abdominal	-	1	2	3
Other Organs	2	1	3	6
Glands	2	1	10	13
				292

Return showing the immediate results of Treatment of patients discharged

Classification on admission	Condition at the time of discharge	Duration of Residential Treatment in the Institution					
		Under 28 dys M.F.C.	Under 3 mths M.F.C.	3 to 6 months M.F.C.	6 to 12 months M.F.C.	More than 12 mths M.F.C.	Totals
Class T.B. Minus	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- 2 -	- 1 -	- 1 -	4
	Not quiescent	7 9 -	14 18 2	11 20 1	7 5 4	1 3 1	103
	Died	3 1 -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	4
Class T.B.Plus Group 1	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	- 2 -	- - -	3
	Not quiescent	2 - -	1 - -	2 - -	- - -	1 1 -	7
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
Class T.B.Plus Group II	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	2 - -	4 3 -	10 7 -	3 1 -	1 3 -	34
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
Class T.B.Plus Group III	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	1 2 -	5 2 -	9 17 -	6 11 -	2 7 -	62
	Died	2 1 -	4 2 -	1 1 -	- - -	1 1 -	13
						Total	230
Bones and Joints	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	- - -	- 1 1	- - -	- 1 -	- - -	3
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
Abdominal	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	- - -	1 1 -	- - 1	- - -	- - -	3
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
Other Organs	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	- - -	1 1 -	- - -	- - -	- 1 -	3
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
Peripheral Glands	Quiescent	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
	Not quiescent	- - -	2 - 1	1 - 7	- - -	- - -	11
	Died	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	-
						Total	20

Artificial pneumothorax was attempted in 52 cases, 36 being successful and 16 failed. In addition 14 patients whose pneumothorax was induced elsewhere continued having refills. There were 31 patients on pneumothorax treatment in the sanatorium on January 1st, 1939.

Gold therapy was employed in 14 cases, crisalbine intravenously being used in all cases. Ultra violet ray therapy was used in 10 cases.

The new operating theatre has been an invaluable addition to our treatment facilities. The following is a summary of the surgical work which has been done:-

Phrenic nerve operations	39
Removal of T.B. cervical glands	14
Thoracoscopy and cauterization of adhesions	8
Injection of Superior Laryngeal Nerve	3
Excision of T.B. abscess	1
Nephrectomy for T.B. kidney	1
Cholecystectomy	1
Cystoscopy for T.B. bladder	1
Removal of foreign body from chest wall	1
Lung abscess (2 stage operation)	1

X-RAYS

There were 1102 screenings made, and 502 films taken of 420 patients during the year. Of the cases 384 were plain chest, 6 after lipiodol injection and 30 of other parts.

DENTAL TREATMENT

As in former years dental treatment continued to be an important adjuvant to the routine sanatorium methods. 215 patients were examined of whom 144 received treatment. Analysis of the treatment shows 176 extractions, 92 fillings, 142 scalings, 10 dentures supplied or repaired. Only two patients required a general anaesthetic, the method used being intravenous evipan sodium.

OPHTHALMIC TREATMENT

The County Council Ophthalmic Surgeon has paid several visits to examine and treat patients for errors of refraction.

AFTER HISTORIES

We have continued to follow up those patients who have left the Sanatorium. It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of patients of whom trace has been lost shows a further reduction.

The accompanying table shows the present position.

Year of discharge	Untraced	1.	2.	3.	Died	Total	Grand Total
1929. T.B. -	8	44	15	4	10	81	
T.B. +							
Group 1	3	6	8	5	8	30	
" 2	2	-	4	1	25	32	
" 3	-	-	-	1	4	5	148
1930. T.B. -	8	26	25	5	11	75	
T.B. +							
Group 1	2	5	8	6	6	27	
" 2	3	1	2	1	30	37	
" 3	-	-	-	-	4	4	143
1931. T.B. -	6	42	30	5	7	90	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	3	5	2	4	14	
" 2	3	-	3	4	22	32	
" 3	-	-	-	1	10	11	147
1932. T.B. -	6	31	39	6	10	92	
T.B. +							
Group 1	1	1	3	-	3	8	
" 2	2	-	4	8	19	33	
" 3	-	-	-	-	10	10	143
1933. T.B. -	1	14	38	7	8	68	
T.B. +							
Group 1	1	3	4	1	3	12	
" 2	4	1	11	4	23	43	
" 3	-	-	2	1	4	7	130
1934. T.B. -	4	18	46	8	4	80	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	-	-	1	1	
" 2	-	-	16	9	14	39	
" 3	-	-	-	-	2	2	122
1935. T.B. -	2	35	43	10	5	95	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	2	-	-	2	
" 2	2	1	15	6	8	32	
" 3	-	-	2	3	4	9	138
1936. T.B. -	-	10	42	6	6	64	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	1	1	-	2	
" 2	-	1	12	17	3	33	
" 3	-	-	12	10	8	30	129
1937. T.B. -	1	15	45	4	1	66	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	2	-	-	1	3	
" 2	-	-	6	13	1	20	
" 3	-	-	2	23	9	34	123
1938. T.B. -	1	19	55	3	3	81	
T.B. +							
Group 1	-	-	5	1	-	6	
" 2	1	-	5	18	-	24	
" 3	-	-	3	18	11	32	143
Totals	61	278	513	212	302	1,366	1,366

The patients' Social Club continues in a healthy state of activity. Numerous games, competitions and social events have been organised.

Unfortunately the Old Patients' Reunion had to be cancelled on account of the war. This same complication of our normal life has prevented our having as many visiting concert parties as usual, but we have been able to some extent to fill the gaps with whist drives.

Partly owing to the fact that there was no November examination for the Tuberculosis Association Certificate our number of examination successes is reduced to one nurse who obtained the certificate.

COUNTY LABORATORY

During the year 17,392 examinations and experiments have been made as compared with 18,778 in 1938 and 16,729 in 1937.

DIPHTHERIA

4,409 (337 positive, 4,036 negative) swabs from nose and throat were examined.

TUBERCULOSIS

1,512 (400 positive, 1,112 negative) specimens of sputum were examined microscopically for tubercle bacilli.

ENTERIC FEVERS and ABORTUS FEVER

95 Widal Agglutintion tests were made with 8 positive (3 Typhoid, 5 Abortus).

FOOD POISONING and DYSENTERY

An epidemic of food-poisoning at a Public Assistance Institution was found to be due to infection with Salmonella Gaertner.

MILK CLEANLINESS

(a) Public Supplies

	Passed	Failed	Total
Ordinary	1,003 (54.3%)	845	1,848
Accredited	1,929 (66.3%)	966	2,895
Tuberculin Tested	413 (81.6%)	93	506
Pasteurised	7	1	8
Totals	3,352 (63.8%)	1,905	5,257

(b) Schools and Institutions

School Supplies	284 (69.1%)	127	411
Public Assistance Institutions	149 (69.3%)	66	215
Public Health Institutions	38 (90.5%)	4	42
Totals	471 (71.5%)	197	668
Total all sources	3,823 (64.5%)	2,102	5,925

The results in general show a certain amount of improvement as compared with 1938. The superior cleanliness of the Tuberculin Tested group is again brought out.

MILK - TUBERCULOSIS

(1) Biological Tests

	Positive	Negative	Inconclusive	Total
Bulk samples	3	573	114	690
Individual cows				
(a) Ministry of Agriculture	3	82	1	86
(b) County Scheme	-	4	1	5
TOTAL	6	659	116	781

The samples designated "bulk samples" are submitted by the Sanitary Inspectors as a routine procedure, the tests being made on samples submitted for the routine "cleanliness test".

There has been a very marked drop in the numbers of samples from individual cows consequent on the transference of the veterinary inspection of herds to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Thus, 1,053 such samples were examined in 1937, 386 in 1938 and 91 in the present year. The transference took place on 1st April, 1938.

(2) Microscopical Tests

68 samples were submitted by Veterinary Officers under the County Scheme. 10 samples were also examined from other sources making a total of 78 as compared with 527 in 1938 and 1622 in 1937.

The great diminution in examinations is due to the transference of inspections to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries where the Veterinary Officers themselves make any necessary microscopical tests of milk samples taken by them during inspections.

VENEREAL DISEASES

The following table shows the numbers of specimens examined and the sources from which they were submitted.

(a) Clinics	Wassermann	Gonococci	Complement Fixation	Total
Barnstaple	24	9	2	35
Exeter (R.D.& E.)	81	85	99	265
Exeter (St.Mary's)	8	33	2	43
Plymouth	71	142	15	228
Torbay Hospital	175	118	119	412
(b) Medical Practitioners, etc.	773	101	24	898
Total	1,132	488	261	1,881

WATER

Public Supplies

	Satisfactory	Doubtful	Unsatisfactory	Total
Urban Districts	288	38	49	375
Rural Districts	240	70	131	441
Total	528	108	180	816

Metals were detected in these as follows :-

Lead 15, Copper - Nil, Zinc 7.

In addition 21 samples were submitted for examination only for the presence of lead.

Total water samples - 837.

RINGWORM

73 specimens were examined.

GENERAL BACTERIOLOGY

General microscopical, cultural and other examinations 1,383.

MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE

Notification of Births. The following births were notified during 1939 as compared with 1938; (these are not the registered births which are supplied by the Registrar-General) :-

	1939	1938
Notified by Medical Practitioners	1,065	1,236
Notified by Midwifes	3,258	3,138
Reported by the Registrars as Non-notified	202	229
Total	4,525	4,603

Stillbirths. There were 138 notified during the year compared with 166 in 1938.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 12 cases were notified compared with 27 in 1938.

The Inspector of Midwives investigated 7 cases and reported as follows:-

Treated at home ..	5.	Treated in Hospital ..	2.
Vision Unimpaired ..	6.	Vision impaired ..	1.

Total blindness - Nil.

Causes of Maternal Deaths. During the year 15 deaths were investigated where the certificate indicated that the fatalities were associated with pregnancy or parturition.

Peurperal Fever and Pyrexia. During the year 61 cases were notified including the Borough of Torquay. The Inspector of Midwives investigated 39 cases (excluding Torquay).

Ante-Natal Centre at Paignton. 109 expectant mothers attended - total number of attendances 323. 45 sessions.

Ante-Natal Examinations. 1,859 applications received from Medical Practitioners. 1738 in 1938.

Consultants Fees. 131 cases. 96 in 1938. 14 received X-Rays examination.

Institutional Provision for Maternity Care. 320 applications approved. 313 for 1938.

Public Assistance Institutions. 87 applications approved. 92 in 1938.

Home Helps. 265 applications approved. 251 in 1938.

Maternity Outfits. 515 outfits were supplied free of cost. 329 paid for by patients.

Inspection of Midwives. 1,119 visits (1,176 in 1938) were paid to 358 midwives who notified their intention to practice during 1939.

Notifications, under Rules of Central Midwives' Board

Requisitions for medical aid	1,488
Still-births	42
Laying out a dead body	86
Contact with infection	80
Death of mother or child	26
Artificial feeding	95
	1,907

Fees to Medical Practitioners called in by Midwives - 1272 applications received.

Health Visiting. During the year the Health Visitors paid the following visits :-

To expectant mothers	1,881
Births	4,433
Re-visits	16,239
Children, 1 - 5 years	28,710
Boarded-out children	836
Tuberculosis cases	1,257

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. At the 44 Welfare Centres in the County 1,410 sessions were held and the following attendances were made :-

Mothers present	39,896
Infants present	22,522
Children, 1-5 years	15,492

Milk Grants for Nursing and Expectant Mothers, and infants up to five years. 820 applications received for liquid milk, and 64 for dried milk. Total number of pints granted equals 25,222½.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

Arrangements were made to admit 55 expectant mothers to 9 hospitals and Nursing Homes in the County.

Notifications by Midwives under Rules of Central Midwives' Board

Requests for Medical Aid	29
Notifications of Births -	
By Practitioners	8
By Midwives	30
Still-births notified by Midwives	2

Ante-Natal Examinations. 42 applications received from Medical Practitioners.

Claims from Medical Practitioners were received in respect of 20 cases in connection with these fees under the Midwives Acts (Emergency Midwifery Services).

Centres. The following attendances were made :-

Official Evacuees -

Mothers present	1,034
Infants present	522
Children, 1-5 years	754

Unofficial Evacuees -

Mothers present	1,325
Infants present	950
Children, 1-5 years	580

Milk Grants to Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Infants. 14 applications were approved for liquid milk and 1 for dried milk.

86 evacuees received milk on an emergency order before definite arrangements could be made.

CHILDREN ACT, 1908, Part 1.

Children and Young Persons Act, 1932, Part 5.

In the administrative county at the beginning of the year there were 114 children boarded out in accordance with the above Acts in 87 homes; at the end of the year there were 112 children and 83 foster parents boarded out.

During the year 31 new applications for registration were received from foster parents. The homes of these persons were visited by the Chief Infant Life Protection Visitor and approved for the reception of one child. In addition, sanction was given to one registered foster mother to take a second child, one to take a third child and another to take a fourth child.

The following notifications were received from foster mothers during the year :-

8 children were legally adopted.
14 children were removed to their parents.
5 children were removed to care of relatives.
3 children were removed from the county.
7 children were removed to new foster mothers.
8 children attained the age of 9 years.
1 child has been admitted to a Nursery School.

The Health Visitors who are Inspectors under the above Acts, paid 836 visits to the homes of Nurse Children.

Miss L.M.Booker, Chief Infant Lift Protection Visitor paid 138 visits of inspection.

EVACUEES

In addition, 40 evacuee children came into the County. These children have been visited and kept under supervision. Eight have since returned to their previous homes accompanied by their foster mothers.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

ASCERTAINMENT

The number of individuals in the County now known to be defective within the meaning of the Act is 2,884.

This figure refers to cases in which a diagnosis of deficiency has been established by medical opinion.

In the work of ascertainment, the services of the Devon Voluntary Association have again been of the greatest possible assistance.

CASES DEALT WITH UNDER THE ACT

The report of the Petitioning Officer shows that during the year 54 cases have been committed to Institutions, 38 patients were discharged from under the operation of the Act, and 8 patients died.

GUARDIANSHIP AND LICENCE

On December 31st, 1939, there were 30 cases under Guardianship and 118 on Licence from Institutions; both these groups have been under the close supervision of the Devon Voluntary Association.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE

On December 31st, 1939, there were 44 cases under institutional care in Institutions outside the County; 311 in the Royal Western Counties Institution, Starcross, 90 in the Devon and Exeter Homes, 47 in Stoke Lyne, Exmouth; 115 in Box House, Axminster, and 94 in Western Lodge, Crediton.

STOKE LYNE

During the year there have been four cases of German Measles otherwise the general health of the patients has been good.

Seventeen boys went to their homes for three weeks' holiday in July and three of the six female working patients have had two weeks' holiday each. One to her home and the other two to Dun Esk Holiday Home, Teignmouth; the remaining three girls will have theirs in due course.

A Sale of Work was held in December. The boys have continued with the Handicraft Work during the year although this has been somewhat difficult at times owing to the acute shortage of staff.

WESTERN LODGE, CREDITON

During 1939 the general health of the patients was very good, no illness of an infectious character having been noted. Parole in groups of three was granted to approximately 60% of the girls up to the end of the year. Unfortunately owing to the outbreak of war 36 patients were unable to spend their holiday at Weston-super-Mare as had been arranged but all thoroughly enjoyed a day's outing at the seaside. In December our annual Sale of Work was held in the new work room and realised over £100.

The girls enjoy going to Church every Sunday, and frequently go to the pictures in Crediton. It was with regret that the "Keep Fit" class had to be discontinued owing to war conditions.

The Laundry continues to do good work.

BOX HOUSE, AXMINSTER

The Board of Control certificate for the accommodation of 131 patients continues and the number has been well maintained. During the year there were 4 deaths and 2 transfers.

During the early part of the year a sickness which was diagnosed as Gaertner "B" was prevalent in the Institution for nearly three months. There were 10 cases but none were fatal. Apart from this outbreak there has been very little illness and the general health of the patients has been good.

Employment and training of 75% of the patients are carried out in the various departments such as the Boot-Repairing Shop. During the year 1728 pairs of boots were repaired from this institution and Western Lodge, Crediton, and 54 pairs of slippers have been made. The Tailor's Shop has made 629 new articles of clothing and repaired 720. The Carpenter with his boys has done valuable work in carrying out the various repairs and the Engineer with some 8 - 12 boys is busy inside and outside the Institution doing general repairs and renovations. The Wood Chopping shed showed a clear profit of £85. Although not a desirable occupation, those employed are of low grade and untrainable and are therefore being employed to the best advantage.

The arable land has been increased and there is under cultivation 2½ acres. This not only affords outdoor occupation but provides a large

quantity of much needed vegetables.

The making of Camouflage Nets for the Government has taken the place of rug making and shows a good return.

Football and cricket matches have been curtailed owing to the war but the field in front of the institution is still a valuable asset and is used on every possible opportunity. The Scout Master and his assistants do what is possible under the present war conditions. The payment of Reward Money, from 1d to 6d per week has been continued.

Gas Mask Drill, surprise Air Raid evacuation and Fire Fighting drill are carried out periodically.

On the outbreak of war three members of the Staff on the Reserve were called to the Colours.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Arrangements were continued for the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Diseases at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Torbay Hospital, North Devon Infirmary (Annexe), Barnstaple, and the City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter, for observation and treatment.

The total number of new County cases attending for out-patient treatment at the Centres during 1939 was 303, compared with 277 in 1938: 12 new in-patients received treatment compared with 23 for 1938.

Up to the end of 1939 the names of 42 medical practitioners had been placed on the list of those qualified to administer Salvarsan substitutes, and to these 135 supplies were sent in the Exeter area, compared with 303 for the previous year. No supply, in either year, was sent in the Plymouth or Torquay areas.

The total number of specimens examined during the year at the County Laboratory was 1,881 compared with 1,880 in 1938.

It was found necessary to repay the sum of £46. 8. 0. to patients for expenses incurred in travelling to the nearest clinics, compared with £101. 12. 0. in 1938, and £58. 13. 1. in 1937.

The following table shows the number of persons who attended for the first time, and the total number of attendances of all persons at the clinics during the years 1937 - 1939 :-

	1937	1938	1939
1. Number dealt with at or in connection with the out-patient clinics for the first time -	370	277	303
2. Total attendances of all persons residing in the administrative County -	13,843	14,495	12,233

RIVERS POLLUTION PREVENTION

During the year the County Health Officers made 128 visits of inspection in connection with the pollution of rivers, of these 35 were the result of specific complaints. 60 samples of river water were collected for analysis.

Milk factory wastes, sand washing and china clay reclamation are other sources of pollution calling for constant observation.

As a rule the various manufacturers are only too ready to co-operate with the Committee in order to prevent pollution.

SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during the year:-

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS

Inspections and re-inspections	262
Special visits in connection therewith	2

RIVERS POLLUTION

Visits of inspection	93
Visits to investigate complaints	35
Samples of river water	60

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS

Accredited Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications)	241
Re-inspections	292
Samples of milk	30
Tuberculin tested Herds - Inspection of premises (new applications)	15
Re-inspections	29
Bottling Licences	
Accredited Herds - on application and revisits	27
T.T. Herds - on application and revisits	32
Milk in Schools Scheme - Inspection of premises	81
Milk Supplies to Council's Institutions - Inspection of premises	1
Surveys of water supplies and sewage disposal schemes	53

INSPECTION OF MEAT AT THE DEVON MENTAL HOSPITAL

Number of Inspections	173
Number of Carcases examined	689
Amount of meat condemned	4226 lbs

GENERAL

Consultations with District Sanitary Inspectors, etc.	126
Investigation of other complaints	3
Samples of public water supplies	1
Ministry inquiries	1

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT, 1915, AND ITS ORDER, THE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926

The following is a summary of the work in connection with Milk Production, during the year:-

MILK AND DAIRIES ACT

During the year 3,763 Veterinary Inspections were carried out, 69,865 cows have been examined, and 959 (1.3%) with indurated udders have been detected.

Examination of the milk from these abnormal udders has shown that 16 (0.02% of the total number of cows examined) were giving tuberculous milk and 783 (1.1% of the total number of cows examined) were giving milk which was unfit for human consumption for reasons other than tuberculosis. The cows giving tuberculous milk have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis

Orders, while steps have been taken to prevent the milk from the other cows, returned as unfit, from reaching the public.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER 1936.

ACCREDITED MILK SCHEME

112 applications have been received under the above scheme for Accredited Licences. By the end of the year, 131 had been approved, making a total of 788 Accredited Herds.

Quarterly clinical examinations of the herds under the scheme have been carried out, and samples from suspicious cows have been taken and sent to the County Laboratory for examination.

2858 bulk samples of milk for cleanliness have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors in the County, and of this number 893 (31.5%) have failed to reach the required standard. This number includes samples taken before granting the licence, and repeat samples.

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK

9 applications were received for licences during the year. 13 licences were issued, 515 bulk samples of Tuberculin Tested milk have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors, and of this number 76 (14.7%) have failed.

The following Licences were in operation in the Administrative County at the end of 1939:-

Accredited	788
Tuberculin Tested	88

MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

During the year the herds of producers supplying milk under this scheme have been examined.

Samples of milk were taken from suspicious cows. 3 animals, included above, were found to be suffering from tuberculosis and were slaughtered.

224 bulk samples of milk from these producers have been taken by the Local Sanitary Inspectors for cleanliness, and of these, 80 (35.6%) have failed to reach the required standard - this number includes repeat samples.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

All functions relating to the sale of Food and Drugs are discharged by the Police. There are no special County Inspectors.

Samples are taken regularly by the Police Officers and submitted to

the Public Analyst, Mr. T. Tickle, for analysis. The latter submits a report to the Public Health Committee at the end of each quarter.

	No. of samples		No. of Adulteration		No. of Prosecutions		Amount of Fines and Costs
	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	
Baking Powder	7	7	-	-	-	-	- - -
Bread	4	3	-				
Butter	28	44	-				
Cakes	4	5	-				
Cheese	7	6	-				
Cream	9	7	-				
Cocoa	3	3	-				
Flour, Plain	14	7	-				
do Self-raising	9	9	-				
Lard	19	24	-				
Margarine	19	29	-				
Milk, new	389	526	50	57	12	24	£57. 2. 4.
Miscellaneous	19	31					
Pepper	15	31					
Rice	13	13					
Sugar	13	27					
Sago	4	2					
Sweets	12	18					
Tapioca	4	13					
Vinegar	30	17	1				
Total number samples taken	612	822	51	57	12	24	£57. 2. 4.